

REMOVING BEETLE INFESTED PINES WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF ATTACK TO NEIGHBORING TREES

In response to the recent mountain pine beetle outbreak, many community members and agencies are actively working to reduce the number of beetle infested trees in Gallatin County.

Many of our Scotch Pines have already been attacked and the few healthy Scotch Pines are at risk for attack this summer. All pine species are at risk including, native lodgepole and ponderosa, and several other introduced pines.

In an effort to reduce further urban losses, the public is encouraged to participate in a county-wide effort to remove infested trees prior to reemergence of the beetles. Options to minimize the spread of infestation include chipping, burning or burying the entire trunk, or removing the bark and allowing the wood to dry out (which kills the larvae).

While trees can still be taken to the County's Landfill, other options have been explored in order to use this wood for a good purpose. Several businesses are willing to accept or pick up infested trees (at little or no cost) for this reason. Businesses collecting trees have agreed that any wood they take will be debarked or otherwise processed before mid-June. There are also a number of businesses in the County that can be hired to remove trees, grind stumps, chip the felled wood, and remove the debris. Licensed chemical applicators can spray tree trunks with several insecticides to effectively protect healthy trees from future attacks.

The goal is to address all infested trees before the adult beetles emerge: **by June 15, 2009**. The sooner we act to remove or treat trees in our neighborhoods and communities, the better chance we have to reduce further losses to the mountain pine beetle.

Please contact the Gallatin Conservation District at 406-522-4016 to obtain a list of participating businesses or if your business would like to be added to the list. This list is not an all-inclusive list and the public is responsible for obtaining costs, availability, and insurance information. The Conservation District has agreed to manage this list and cannot recommend businesses nor verify their competency.

Additional pine beetle educational resources:

Dan Durham-Conservation District, 522-4016

Mark Novak-Forest Service, 522-2560

Ryon Stover-City of Bozeman, 582-3200

Curt Tesmer-DNRC, 556-4506

Kevin Wanner-MSU, 994-5663